

House File 2274 - Introduced

HOUSE FILE 2274

BY JACOBSEN

A BILL FOR

1 An Act relating to capitol access for lobbyists and making
2 penalties applicable.

3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

1 Section 1. NEW SECTION. 68B.37 Lobbyists — restrictions
2 on capitol access.

3 A lobbyist, while registered or required to be registered
4 under section 68B.36 to engage in lobbying activities before
5 the general assembly, shall not be present on the floor of the
6 capitol on which the house of representatives and senate is
7 located unless the lobbyist is attending a committee meeting, a
8 subcommittee meeting, or is present in a lounge specifically
9 designated for lobbyists.

10 EXPLANATION

11 The inclusion of this explanation does not constitute agreement with
12 the explanation's substance by the members of the general assembly.

13 This bill prohibits a lobbyist, while registered or required
14 to be registered to engage in lobbying activities before the
15 general assembly, to be present on the floor of the capitol on
16 which the house of representatives and senate is located unless
17 the lobbyist is attending a committee meeting, a subcommittee
18 meeting, or is present in a lounge specifically designated for
19 lobbyists.

20 Because violations of Code chapter 68B may be the basis
21 of a complaint under the code of ethics of both the house of
22 representatives and the senate, a lobbyist who violates the
23 bill would also violate both codes of ethics. A lobbyist who
24 violates either code of ethics is subject to discipline by the
25 committee on ethics of the house of representatives or the
26 senate. The codes of ethics permit the committees on ethics to
27 reprimand a lobbyist or to impose another appropriate sanction,
28 including suspension of lobbying privileges.

29 Additionally, by operation of law pursuant to Code section
30 68B.34, a person who knowingly and intentionally violates the
31 bill is guilty of a serious misdemeanor and may be reprimanded,
32 suspended, or dismissed from the person's position or otherwise
33 sanctioned. A serious misdemeanor is punishable by confinement
34 for no more than one year and a fine of at least \$430 but not
35 more than \$2,560.